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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-third session*

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Introduction

The sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 5 to 9 December 2016. In the course of the session, the Board held eight plenary meetings, the 1142nd to the 1148th.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

A. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

Decision 529 (LXIII)

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Reiterates* the relevance of the technical cooperation pillar of UNCTAD, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi Maafikiano, in contributing to inclusive development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the tools provided by UNCTAD, such as the database of formal requests for technical assistance received from member States, while noting that more work needs to be done in order to render this an effective tool, in consultation with member States, especially regarding the inclusion of details of the proposals; and the *UNCTAD Toolbox*, which provides beneficiaries and donors with a comprehensive overview of the main products of UNCTAD;

4. *Appreciates* the implementation of results-based management by the secretariat in UNCTAD technical cooperation in line with United Nations guidelines;

5. *Appreciates also* the efforts to improve the quality of technical cooperation activities carried out by the secretariat in cooperation with beneficiaries, development partners and other international organizations, inter alia in the context of "Delivering as one", and encourages the secretariat to enhance the design, management and evaluation of technical cooperation activities in order to maximize the development impact;

6. *Takes note* of the increased level of contributions from developing countries to UNCTAD trust funds, mainly to cover projects in their own countries;

7. *Expresses concern* about the decline in funding from some traditional sources to UNCTAD technical cooperation, resulting in a shortfall and unpredictability in the funding necessary to meet the increasing demand;

8. *Encourages* developed countries and development partners in a position to do so to make multi-year contributions to UNCTAD technical cooperation, in order to increase predictability in the planning and implementation of technical assistance programmes, and to enable the secretariat to meet demands for technical assistance;

9. *Takes note* that allocation of non-earmarked funds for technical cooperation should encompass the totality of technical cooperation products offered by UNCTAD;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the secretariat to address the funding gap;

11. *Encourages* the secretariat to pursue its efforts to seek new funding partnerships, including through the pooled funding mechanisms in support of the UNCTAD-led United

Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and other innovative mechanisms such as blended finance and public–private partnerships.

1145th plenary meeting
7 December 2016

B. Other action taken by the Board

UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

1. At its 1145th plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat as contained in document .

Technical cooperation activities

2. Under this agenda item, the Board considered two matters.

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

3. At its 1145th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2016, the Board adopted the draft decision on the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing proposed by the seventy-third session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme (see paragraph 6, below).

Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

4. At its 1146th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2016, the Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat () and the statements made by delegations. The Board decided, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445, that the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-third session to the General Assembly would include an account of the deliberations under the agenda item.

Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

5. At its 1148th (closing) plenary meeting, on 9 December 2016, the Board decided that member States should continue their reflections and consultations on the agenda item, with the formal discussion on it to be taken up again at a later date with a view to reaching a conclusion.

Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme

6. At its 1145th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party at its seventy-third session, as contained in , and endorsed the agreed conclusions therein.

7. At its 1148th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party at its seventy-fourth session, as contained in , and endorsed the agreed conclusions therein.

8. The Board further welcomed and concurred with the realignment proposed by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in relation to consolidation, under subprogramme 3, of the two existing components into a single component on international trade and commodities.

Other matters in the field of trade and development:

9. Under this agenda item, the Board considered two reports.

Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

10. At its 1147th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its forty-ninth session, as contained in document A/71/17.

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

11. At its 1147th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report on the fiftieth session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2015–2016 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2016

12. At its 1147th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Chair (Panama) of the Advisory Body for 2015–2016.

13. The representative of one regional group noted that the UNCTAD regional and short editions of the Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda supported building the capacity of policymakers dealing with trade and development issues, by enhancing knowledge, especially issues related to economic growth, technology and finance. The last regional course held in Oman had been successful, as it was informative and focused on development policies, harnessing benefits from trade and enhancing productive capacities. Praising participation in the course, with the proportion of women represented exceeding 50 per cent, significantly greater compared to the previous regional course held in Oman, he recognized the quality of regional editions and called on the Board to continue supporting the course.

14. One delegate reviewed the five multi-year venues for regional courses of 2015 and 2016, noting that they provided least developed and developing countries a better understanding of economic issues. The regional courses in 2015 and early 2016 dealt with pertinent issues, such as enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment. He noted that the regional courses had been assessed as positive, informative and valuable to participants and that the ratio of female participants from the Arab region in a recent course held in Muscat exceeded 50 per cent. A regional course for Arab economies had been delivered recently in Oman. The course provided participants with knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of trade and development policies. Regional courses dealt with various economic issues such as promoting investment and the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegate called on the Board to continue supporting regional editions of the course and looked forward to the 2017 regional courses to be held in Mauritius for African economies, Colombia for Latin America and the Caribbean and Singapore for Asia and the Pacific.

15. Another delegate expressed appreciation for the regional and short courses, noting that participation in the regional courses were of high quality and provided training opportunities for developing countries. She thanked the Government of Colombia for hosting the regional course for Latin American and the Caribbean and UNCTAD for the substantial support provided through its programme, for both regional and short courses in Geneva, and called on the Board to continue supporting regional editions of the course.

II. President's summary

A. Opening plenary meeting

General opening statements

16. The following speakers made opening statements: the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of Japan, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of the Bahamas, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Asia–Pacific Group; the representative of Estonia, on behalf of Group D; the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the least developed countries; the representative of Paraguay, on behalf of the landlocked developing countries; the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group; the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the Group of 15; the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the representative of China; the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the representative of the Holy See; the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania; the representative of the Philippines; the representative of India; the representative of Algeria; the representative of Tunisia; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the representative of the Republic of Korea; the representative of Zimbabwe; the representative of Japan; the representative of Kenya; the representative of Uganda; the representative of Malaysia; the representative of Ethiopia; and the representative of Morocco.

17. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD recalled his promises to member States at the start of his tenure in 2013 to optimize the visibility of UNCTAD within the United Nations system and in the international development community and to look for institutional practices that would enhance visibility and the quality of products delivered. Since then, the secretariat had followed up with concrete steps, taken in consultation with member States, to improve that visibility and deliver with impact.

18. Paving the way to the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi were a series of high-level activities aimed at increasing the visibility of UNCTAD. The expanded UNCTAD New York Office was now regularly used by member States in their consultations and brought greater visibility for UNCTAD in New York. He had also engaged the membership and leadership of the United Nations in New York on timely issues through visits and consultations. Another example was the role of UNCTAD in the lead up to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015, including at the major events hosted, as well as the enhanced mandate given to UNCTAD in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He also noted that the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa opened in Addis Ababa had found notable success with the African Union and was closely involved in regional integration efforts, including the continental free trade area. Those results were consistent with the urgings given by member States to UNCTAD on impact.

19. UNCTAD had likewise maintained its commitment to results-based management. Particularly with regard to the technical cooperation pillar, UNCTAD had embedded results-based management to the degree that those efforts had become a model to follow.

20. His recent participation in a retreat with permanent representatives in New York had focused on the new UNCTAD mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, adopted in July 2016 and the way forward, and how UNCTAD could further improve its backstopping support to New York delegations.

21. Expressing his appreciation, the Secretary-General thanked the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, particularly for his ability to steer the negotiations, and member States for the resounding mandate given in Nairobi that reflected the trust they had in UNCTAD. The mandate sought to strengthen UNCTAD, asking the organization to continue work in some areas and to undertake additional functions, in particular two new intergovernmental groups of experts. Quoting parts of paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, he noted that member States also specifically asked UNCTAD to strengthen its special focus on the trade and development needs of the least developed countries; support Africa to address its special concerns and needs; address the special trade, investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries; assist small island developing States to address persistent trade, investment and development challenges; give focus to the special needs and problems of structurally weak and vulnerable small economies; and support the development efforts of middle-income countries facing the challenges of sustainable economic development and poverty eradication. All of those obligations were to be met within existing resources. In the months since the fourteenth session of the Conference, the secretariat had been considering how to fulfil that mandate, which gave UNCTAD a justification for its institutional existence and a way of moving forward, without new resources.

22. The work of UNCTAD was shaped, however, by events in the United Nations international community, particularly the mandate from Nairobi and the shift in the global environment for the development community's discourse on trade and development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set out clear areas of work directly relevant to UNCTAD, unlike with the Millennium Development Goals to which economic enablers had been added as an afterthought. The ability of UNCTAD to benchmark development and trade issues and to help build capacity within member States to help realize their aspirations under the 2030 Agenda had shown the importance of its work on a contemporary matter of global priority. At the same time, anti-globalization efforts were painting international trade negatively. Yet, properly utilized, international trade was part of the solution for those who felt left behind.

23. The challenge of increasing migration due to political turbulence in the Middle East and the steady flow of economic migrants had led to a sense that isolationism was growing in popularity, even among traditionally important partners in development cooperation. Furthermore, development cooperation partners were placing efforts to address migration and refugee issues under the global international cooperation budget. The overall effect was a decline in the development cooperation component for which the international development community, including UNCTAD, competed. With the limited growth in resource availability, smart ways were needed to realize the UNCTAD mandate given at the fourteenth session of the Conference.

24. The existing development environment and the aim of modelling UNCTAD as a global leader in building productive capacity in the service of development to make optimal contributions to the world's challenges required enabling UNCTAD to position itself to that end by using existing resources. He expressed appreciation that the proposal presented at the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party to reintegrate the Special Unit on Commodities into the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities had been accepted, and noted that the proposal would be presented to the Board for approval. He recalled the

circumstances that had led to a decision taken at the twelfth session of the Conference in Accra to separate the unit from the division and place it under the Office of the Secretary-General. In the years since, the work of the unit had been weakened by the lack of a high-level head to represent its efforts when the Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General were unavailable, as well as no longer having the administrative and technical backstopping available from the division. The proposal thus addressed the unforeseen negative impacts of that decision. To fully and faithfully deliver more and better without additional regular budget resources, as the new UNCTAD mandate asked, could still require some additional resources from elsewhere in the United Nations family.

25. In that context, for example, a means of addressing the lack of staff to undertake work under extrabudgetary resources was needed that did not compromise other mandates under regular resources and optimized available resources and improved impact on the ground. The success of the cabinet briefings initiative begun two years earlier had encouraged the secretariat to find other ways of collaborating between divisions on knowledge products, such as through the paragraph 166 course, the Train for Trade port management programme and the Virtual Institute.

26. The Secretary-General had also taken steps, such as maximizing in-house peer reviews and ensuring that all divisions had a heads up on bold statements, towards ownership of products being seen eventually as UNCTAD products rather than divisional ones.

27. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations thanked the outgoing President of the Board for his dedication and commitment in guiding member States to a successful and ambitious outcome in Nairobi. Some regional groups urged the Trade and Development Board to agree on the range of decisions to be taken during the session as a follow-up to the new mandate.

28. The representatives of several regional groups requested resumption of the management briefings of the Deputy Secretary-General to member States. They noted that management issues should be a regular part of discussions with members. On lessons learned from the fourteenth session of the Conference, they proposed the development of guidelines on the negotiations process to better equip future negotiators. They observed that such work should be done by the secretariat with senior management buy-in and under the leadership of the President of the Trade and Development Board. The secretariat should prepare a questionnaire inviting member States to share their reflections on the Conference.

29. Many delegations recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming in relation to trade and development. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations noted the ongoing requirement for extrabudgetary resources, for instance with regard to the need to seamlessly integrate elements of women's empowerment into UNCTAD research and analysis and technical cooperation.

30. Some delegations noted that UNCTAD and member States should uphold the commitment to assist the Palestinian people through sustainable economic development programmes.

Opening statements: Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

31. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations noted the mandate provided by the Nairobi Maafikiano and reiterated their commitment to moving forward with its full implementation and addressing the new challenges, such as the creation of two new intergovernmental groups of experts to sustain the

gains made in Nairobi, and strengthening the work of UNCTAD in the context of the three pillars.

32. Overall, the representatives of many regional groups and delegations highlighted that the increased mandate coming from Nairobi was not being matched by increased resources. The representative of one regional group and many delegations noted that member States in New York should be encouraged to provide adequate resources and ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano.

33. In addition, the representatives of many regional groups and delegations emphasized that more meaningful outcomes were required from the intergovernmental machinery, beyond a summary of proceedings of meetings. In particular, the organization of certain agenda items needed to be improved, and meetings needed to provide specific policy recommendations for consideration by the Trade and Development Board. The representatives noted that cycles of intergovernmental meetings should serve as inputs for the outcomes of the quadrennial conferences. Finally, the intergovernmental machinery required an ambitious programme of work, and the other two pillars of UNCTAD needed to support that process.

34. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations noted that results-based management was not covered under a specific agenda item. They emphasized that management issues needed to be a regular and integral part of briefings to member States, and that coordination among divisions should continue to be strengthened.

35. The representatives of some regional groups and delegations proposed that, prior to a conference, member States should negotiate only the theme of a conference, not sub-themes, in the interest of time, and rather than starting with a zero draft. In addition, brainstorming sessions could be held to identify topics, a table of contents and outline could be prepared and the negotiated text could be co-drafted. The number of position papers could be reduced, there should be reflection on how to better incorporate the work of the Youth Forum and the Civil Society Forum into the Conference and the outcome document should be aligned to organizational structure rather than sub-themes. During a quadrennial conference, some regional groups suggested that the secretariat should use cloud-based solutions for document preparation, editing and sharing, establish conference services in advance, increase the number of staff servicing the conference and have high-level UNCTAD staff present during the negotiations. On the current post-conference period, the secretariat should provide an immediate analysis of how specific chapters of the Nairobi Maafikiano translated into policy and action, and provide a list of mandated changes for consideration by the Trade and Development Board in June 2017.

Secretariat response

36. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD stressed that the secretariat would take note of the guidance provided by member States and reaffirmation of the spirit and letter of the Nairobi Maafikiano, with UNCTAD as key in helping to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the broad quest of developing economies. With regard to intergovernmental processes, he noted that the secretariat would support the strengthening of such processes for clear policy decisions and strong outcome documents, as requested by member States, and that resources would be deployed to support the intergovernmental machinery as needed. With regard to management-related issues, the secretariat would continue to provide regular briefings, including on results-based management. The Deputy Secretary-

General noted that UNCTAD had been the first United Nations body to create indicators for results-based management linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, which had been shared as a model for use by other entities in the United Nations system. In addition, UNCTAD continued to work on fulfilling the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Finally, with regard to financing, the Deputy Secretary-General noted that donors needed to cover the full costs of technical assistance. UNCTAD would continue to maintain close communications with member States, in particular concerning the budget-related discussions of the Fifth Committee, including with regard to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

(Agenda item 2)

37. The Director of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, of UNCTAD presented the recent trends affecting trade, trade policy and the international trading system.

38. The discussant noted that there could be no effective trade policy if it was not accompanied by complementary social policies, and identified major challenges within current social and economic environments.

39. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of several regional groups and delegations expressed concern over the slowdown in international trade growth. With regard to services, as addressed in the background note, entitled "Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective" (), several representatives of regional groups and delegations noted their appreciation for its consideration of the talks on services taking place at the World Trade Organization, particularly with regard to the services waiver for the least developed countries. They expressed concern, however, over the challenges involved in services liberalization and cautioned against excessive reliance on services, as lack of infrastructure and capacity, including owing to the technology gap, meant that not all developing countries had benefited from the services sector.

40. The representative of one regional group highlighted the opportunities that services could present, given the slowdown in manufacturing trade, and suggested that a Generalized System of Preferences for services was a good opportunity for the least developed countries. The representative also emphasized the importance of cooperation on foreign direct investment, migration and rules and regulations to benefit from trade in services.

41. The representative of another regional group welcomed the emphasis on services, but highlighted the importance of other issues such as fisheries subsidies, agriculture and assisting small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from global trade.

42. The representative of one multilateral organization highlighted the importance of manufacturing in achieving structural transformation, and noted the need to avoid premature deindustrialization, as many services were manufacturing-related.

43. The secretariat noted that trade in services was not a complete solution, but had a fundamental supporting role, and that the services waiver was a move towards more comprehensive systems supporting the liberalization of such trade. In addition, the secretariat emphasized the importance of monitoring the implementation of the services waiver under the World Trade Organization. The secretariat highlighted that a Generalized System of Preferences for trade in services for the least developed

countries could be implemented, which might build on the long-term experience of UNCTAD with regard to a similar system for goods.

44. The discussion under the agenda item continued with a presentation by the UNCTAD Special Unit on Commodities on the background note entitled "Agricultural commodity value chains: The effects of market concentration on farmers and producing countries – the case of cocoa" ().

45. The presentation addressed market concentration and the distribution of value among stakeholders in the cocoa global value chain. The deteriorating position of dispersed smallholding farmers in a global value chain was characterized by increasingly integrated traders, processors and manufacturers. The secretariat also highlighted policy recommendations to support small-scale stakeholders at the macro, meso and micro levels.

46. One delegate acknowledged the importance of the discussion and emphasized that cocoa producers in Ecuador had succeeded in securing market access and receiving higher average prices, as compared to producers in other developing countries, due to a national strategy of product differentiation based on specific quality standards and protected geographical indication status.

47. The representative of one regional group commended the secretariat for presenting policy recommendations. He pointed out that the recommendations were valuable, but observed that the situation of producers could vary drastically across commodities and thus cautioned that conclusions from the cocoa study could not be generalized and applied to other sectors. The secretariat agreed that different commodities required distinct examination and noted that UNCTAD had carried out several studies on a number of commodities, including on the linkages between extractive sectors and other sectors of the economy. In addition, a specific study on the cotton global value chain was currently under consideration.

48. The representative of another regional group stressed that the note underplayed the development potential of global value chains for developing countries. The secretariat emphasized the importance of looking at global value chains as an opportunity for developing countries and that UNCTAD was committed to working with other United Nations agencies to address the issue.

49. The representative of another regional group proposed the prioritization of a discussion on job creation. The secretariat agreed with the need to emphasize employment and underscored that sustainable job creation had been the main theme of the seventeenth UNCTAD Africa Oil, Gas and Mines Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition held in the Sudan in 2015.

C. Investment for development

(Agenda item 3)

50. The Director of the Division on Investment and Enterprise presented the global action menu for investment facilitation, launched in the UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2016*. The Director detailed the context, concept, content and configuration of the global action menu, which was based on the *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development* and *Investing in Sustainable Development Goals: Action Plan for Private Investments*.

51. During the interactive debate, the representatives of some regional groups noted with concern the annual investment gap of $2.5 trillion for developing countries required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and the low level of global investment, which affected productive capacity and productivity growth. In addition, several regional groups and delegates highlighted that investment

facilitation played a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusive growth and job creation, and that both developed and developing countries stood to benefit from the application of investment facilitation measures.

52. In their interventions, regional groups and delegations noted the systemic gaps in national and international investment policies, and affirmed their support for the Global Action Menu as an instrument for investment facilitation that could fill such important policy gaps. They commended UNCTAD on the timeliness and quality of the updated global action menu, which was considered a high-quality reference document for investment facilitation policies.

53. Delegates welcomed the fact that the global action menu was based on the experiences of UNCTAD, including as detailed in many editions of the *World Investment Report*, and good practices in investment promotion and facilitation efforts over the past decades, and on good practices worldwide. They were particularly appreciative of the fact that the global action menu was the result of extensive consultations worldwide with a full range of investment for development stakeholders, including high-level policymakers from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the private sector and civil society, as well as investment experts, including at the World Investment Forum in 2016, where global consensus in this area had emerged.

54. Key stakeholders from the public and private sectors reviewed the global action menu during two panel sessions. The panels outlined stakeholders' approaches to investment facilitation and noted that these approaches mostly reflected the UNCTAD action lines. A representative of the private sector highlighted the business community was fully aware of its responsibilities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that investment facilitation policies, including those proposed by UNCTAD, were an important step in this direction. Some panellists presented their national approaches – namely, the investment promotion agency of Thailand, and the international investment agreements of Brazil – benchmarked against the global action menu and thereby demonstrating its adaptability. A few delegates gave examples of the facilitation of outbound investment, and some delegates stated that this could lead to partnerships with institutions attracting investment in developing countries. Several stakeholders stressed that in order to be effective, investment facilitation efforts should be undertaken not only at the national and subnational levels, but also at the international level, and that developing countries should be provided assistance. One representative emphasized that States had to work together on a global scale for investment facilitation, and that the Group of 20 could be an appropriate forum for action.

55. Several regional groups and delegates stressed the importance of improving access to capital, skills development and technology exchanges and of addressing the needs of target groups, such as women and youth. Capacity-building was needed for local small and medium-sized enterprises, to deliver on the quality, quantity and cost-effectiveness of products, create linkages between multinational enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises and develop value chains.

56. Discussions reflected support for the Global Action Menu and the UNCTAD approach, and requested UNCTAD to develop and disseminate a workplan based on the Global Action Menu and to help build capacity for its implementation. The representative of one regional group, for example, noted the user-friendliness of the global action menu and the flexibility it gave to policymakers to choose and adapt facilitation measures best suited for their countries' development needs.

57. Several delegates commended UNCTAD on its specific investment facilitation tools, such as the eRegistration and eRegulation systems, as well as the Global

Enterprise Registration portal, and requested the continuation of these technical assistance activities. Some delegates noted that investment promotion and facilitation and enterprise development went hand in hand, and requested UNCTAD to enhance its work in these areas, including the Empretec training and business linkages programmes.

58. Several regional groups and delegates highlighted the need for greater international cooperation in the area of investment facilitation and the expertise and potential role of UNCTAD, based on its global action menu, in assisting countries in the implementation of investment facilitation measures and in leading any multi-stakeholder international initiative in this respect. Delegations reiterated the importance of investment facilitation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and commended UNCTAD for its work in this area.

59. Many investment for development stakeholders commended UNCTAD on the holistic approach of the global action menu. They highlighted the benefits of facilitation in serving not only multinational enterprises, but also small and medium-sized enterprises, in addition to benefiting not only foreign but also domestic investors.

60. In summarizing the discussion, the meeting noted the challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and of filling the systemic investment facilitation policy gap. Both of these challenges underscored the need for investment facilitation instruments and mechanisms at the national and international levels. In this regard, the meeting concurred on the timeliness, importance, and quality of the Global Action Menu and supported its further dissemination through the three pillars of UNCTAD, while reaffirming the role of UNCTAD in taking the lead in policy development (including with respect to new generation investment treaties), and in facilitating consensus on key elements of international investment policies and their implementation at the national and international levels, through the development of a dedicated technical assistance programme.

D. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

(Agenda item 4)

61. The Deputy Secretary-General summarized the contributions of UNCTAD to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including resolutions of the General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He highlighted the work of UNCTAD in a range of areas, including international trade, commodities, investment and enterprise development, global and macroeconomic issues, debt and development finance and technology for development, as well as with regard to the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. UNCTAD was one of the main agencies that could deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and continued to lead the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and had a particular role in the establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and its work.

62. The representative of one regional group welcomed the work of UNCTAD in delivering on its multiple mandates and urged UNCTAD to continue its activities. The Deputy Secretary-General stressed that, as a multipurpose organization, UNCTAD worked in partnership with other agencies on a wide range of issues. He

acknowledged the challenge of effectively communicating information on its activities and on the messages conveyed by UNCTAD at major meetings and conferences, noting that the organization needed to raise greater awareness among member States of its work.

63. With regard to a request by one delegate for clarification on how UNCTAD collaborated with other United Nations entities in the area of science and technology, the Deputy Secretary-General referred to the organization's support for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its policy review work, as well as to its role in the United Nations Group on the Information Society, World Summit on the Information Society plus 10 review and Technology Facilitation Mechanism. In addition, the work of UNCTAD in relation to the information economy, including electronic commerce, was performed in close collaboration with other relevant entities in the United Nations system.

E. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020: Fifth progress report

(Agenda item 5)

64. There was unanimous recognition of the contributions of UNCTAD to the sustainable development of the least developed countries and expression of support for its ongoing work. Representatives of regional groups and delegates called on UNCTAD to continue its support for those countries, in particular by replenishing the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

65. Although there were some encouraging trends to be noted, many delegations, including those of regional groups, expressed concern that the ambitious targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 might not be met, particularly those relating to productive capacities, the number of least developed countries meeting graduation criteria by 2020, the attainment of a growth rate of 7 per cent in all least developed country economies and the doubling of the share of their exports in world exports.

66. Many delegations called on donor countries to scale up their official development assistance to the least developed countries to meet their committed targets. Owing to the structural impediments to growth faced by those countries, they would not be able to meet the targets of the Programme of Action without substantial international assistance.

67. The representatives of some regional groups and delegates proposed the organization of an expert group meeting on developing export industries and productive capacities in the least developed countries as that would facilitate the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

68. Many delegations stated that the confirmation of the mandate of UNCTAD by the Nairobi Maafikiano to give special attention in its work on the least developed countries was an indication that its work was useful and necessary. Renewal of the mandate allowed UNCTAD to reinforce its efforts to assist the least developed countries on their path to sustainable development.

69. In the view of one delegate, rural development was directly linked to the achievement of sustainable development, given the proportion of people living in rural areas. The unchecked movement of people to urban centres in search of jobs could lead to other problems such as crime and environmental degradation.

70. With regard to graduation, some delegations noted that the least developed countries lost access to preferential measures in the international trading system and

recommended the gradual phasing out of such benefits to ensure their continued growth beyond graduation.

F. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 7)

71. Further to the opening statements under the agenda item made during the opening plenary meeting, the secretariat presented an informal paper on options to operationalize the creation of two intergovernmental groups of experts. The paper offered four options within the parameters set by the Nairobi Maafikiano, highlighting the resource implications of each option. The secretariat also gave an overview of the proposed draft terms of reference for the intergovernmental groups of experts, one on electronic commerce and the other on financing for development.

72. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations requested clarifications on issues such as the topics, overall theme and structure of and process for taking a decision on the intergovernmental groups of experts. Several representatives expressed different concerns related to some of the options in relation to the existing multi-year and single-year expert meetings. The representative of one regional group proposed an additional option for consideration, while another regional group suggested considering use of part of the time allocated to the commissions.

73. The secretariat provided clarifications on the logistics of preparing meetings and explained how different options would affect the intergovernmental machinery, noting that the decision of which option to follow for implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano depended on member States. With regard to the process for taking a decision, the secretariat recalled that, following the thirteenth session of the Conference, protracted negotiations on the topics of the expert meetings had paralysed the intergovernmental machinery for more than one year.

74. Some delegates and the President of the Board suggested that member States should aim to find convergence. Another delegate stressed that members should focus on the terms of reference and topics of the meetings of the intergovernmental groups of experts instead of on resources.

75. The President presented a proposal to guide member States in their discussions towards effective implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano, namely the options and terms of reference for operationalizing the new intergovernmental groups of experts, approach to strengthening the programmatic work of UNCTAD, follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference and agreed conclusions on the least developed countries.

76. The Board pursued its deliberations in an informal setting.

77. Following the deliberations, the representatives of several regional groups noted the constructive discussions held and the need for further engagement under the agenda item.

G. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
(Agenda item 6 (b))

78. The representatives of 7 regional groups and 10 member States expressed appreciation for the report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people () and endorsed its findings and recommendations.

79. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD stressed the need to strengthen the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit to fulfil the mandates of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recent General Assembly resolutions. Since the Sustainable Development Goals were a priority of the global development agenda, Palestinians should not be left behind.

80. The secretariat said that socioeconomic indicators were disappointing, owing to restrictive measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The costs of occupation for the Palestinian people were staggering and should be reported to the General Assembly, as stated in resolutions 69/20 and 70/12. The issue was currently under consideration by the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. Reporting such costs would require the establishment of a United Nations framework to estimate the costs of occupation on a regular basis. Therefore, the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit should be strengthened by regular resources (post and non-post) in accordance with the Nairobi Maafikiano, paragraph 55 (dd).

81. Most delegates, including the representative of the State of Palestine, endorsed the statement of the UNCTAD secretariat requesting member States to strengthen the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit.

82. The representative of the State of Palestine said that UNCTAD work was essential to ensure Palestinian economic development and build international consensus to prevail upon Israel to fulfil its obligations as an occupying Power. Palestinians had lost 60 per cent of the West Bank and East Jerusalem to occupation, as well as 82 per cent of their underground water, forcing them to buy their own water from Israel.

83. Many delegates expressed support for UNCTAD work on assessing the economic cost of occupation, which denied the Palestinian people the human right to development. They also endorsed the establishment of the proposed cost-assessment framework and welcomed the contribution of UNCTAD to building Palestinian capacities and providing training and advisory services. They underscored the credibility of UNCTAD and encouraged it to continue lending technical support to Palestinians to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

84. Many delegations expressed alarm at the increasing human suffering and dire, deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They noted the impact of the destruction and confiscation of Palestinian assets and natural resources, the withholding of Palestinian revenue and the restrictions on the importation of production inputs. Furthermore, the expansion of the settlements recognized internationally as illegal should be halted to preserve the viability of a two-State solution.

85. Many delegates expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority and called on UNCTAD and the international community to increase such support and to lift the nine-year blockade on Gaza.

H. Other business
(Agenda item 11)

86. At the closing plenary meeting, the representatives of some regional groups raised the issue of results-based management and UNCTAD. One representative noted that results-based management had not been addressed under an agenda item at the session, and recalled ongoing efforts to optimize management and administrative structures, including through continuous improvement and strengthened internal accountability, and that the Nairobi Maafikiano stated that UNCTAD should continue efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in UNCTAD operations. Results-based management was a management strategy that should be based on integration of planning and budget processes for programme and operations, monitoring and reporting tools, and evaluation. Senior management were the primary users of monitoring and evaluation results, and all benefited from the approach. He encouraged senior management to continue their periodic management briefings and looked forward to continued engagement with the secretariat on results-based management throughout UNCTAD. The other representative added that UNCTAD had accepted and appreciated the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the research and analysis pillar, agreeing to implement the recommendations by the end of 2016. She requested the continuation of the management briefings and an update on progress in that regard. With regard to the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery mandated by the Nairobi Maafikiano, results-based management constituted a systematic and informed way of improving the meetings of the intergovernmental machinery. It was important to apply results-based management to all three UNCTAD pillars of work.

87. The representative of another regional group noted that he did not agree with the stated positions on results-based management and reiterated that the position of his group was clear in that regard. He emphasized that for the regional group, as stated at the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party, results-based management at UNCTAD applied only to technical cooperation, a position that remained firm. Furthermore, he requested that the secretariat provide clarification on how the topic of lessons learned had come up, as it was not an agreed agenda item for the session of the Board but had impeded progress on other issues. He asked whether discussions of lessons learned at the Board had taken place following past quadrennial conferences.

88. The representative of the delegation of Kenya, on behalf of his Government, expressed unreserved concern regarding statements by some delegations who suggested the discussion of acceptable standards for logistics of meetings as part of the proposed lessons learned exercise following the fourteenth session of the Conference. He recalled that the UNCTAD secretariat had approved the venue and facilities proposed by his Government. The venue had served to host other high-level meetings, including the fourth session of the Conference, without any question of its acceptability and standards on record. Allegations regarding acceptable standards of electricity, microphones and the like were unfounded. He requested that the President of the Board review the above-mentioned issues and consider calling for elaboration by the delegations concerned, as the country should not be discussed under the proposed lessons learned process, which would be an affront to the generosity of the Government of Kenya and its people. The Government had offered to host the fourteenth session of the Conference under exceptional circumstances as part of its commitment to UNCTAD. Should some member States or participants have been dissatisfied with the conference facilities, the Government would ask the secretariat to refer to document , regarding the expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya, as the official record. Urging the Board to uphold

the respect and integrity of the UNCTAD family, he stated that his Government would continue to support the objectives of UNCTAD and engage with partners, as appropriate.

89. The representative of one regional group clarified that its opening statement on lessons learned did not address the hospitality of the Government of Kenya, and recognized that the venue for the fourteenth session of the Conference had been used for other international conferences without negative feedback. She suggested that revisiting processes for the preparation of UNCTAD ministerial conferences could be needed instead. She expressed the regional group's appreciation to Kenya as the host country for the successful Conference. She emphasized that the proposed lessons learned or reflection exercise was not addressed to the Government of Kenya but rather concerned preparations for the next conference.

90. The representative of one regional group expressed the group's appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the successful fourteenth session of the Conference. He also reiterated that implementation issues concerning the Nairobi Maafikiano were the priority for the regional group.

91. The secretariat clarified that the lessons learned exercise was not on the agenda of the Board. A proposal for it had been made by some regional groups and member States, rather than the secretariat, as part of the intergovernmental process. The secretariat expressed its deep appreciation of the commitment and generosity of the people of Kenya for an excellent conference, noting that the conditions put in place by the host country had significantly contributed to its historic outcome. The secretariat also stated that it had always underscored the importance of all processes to be based on mutual respect and constructive engagement with a view to a positive effect on work. The secretariat had repeatedly raised the caution of possible, unintended, negative consequences of certain proposals. Nevertheless, the secretariat looked forward to the continued constructive engagement among all member States and was encouraged by the commitment to a strong UNCTAD and implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Opening of the session

92. The sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 5 December 2016 by Mr. Alfredo Suescum (Panama), outgoing President of the Board at its sixty-second session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1 (a))

93. At its 1143rd plenary meeting, the Board elected Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda) President of the Board at its sixty-third session.

94. The Board undertook the election of officers to serve on the Bureau of the Board at its sixty-third session by electing the Vice-Presidents during the 1142nd (opening) plenary and 1148th (closing) plenary meetings. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

President:	Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Juan Falconi Puig (Ecuador)
	Mr. Alexander Opimakh (Belarus)
	Mr. Mr. Boudjemâa Delmi (Algeria)

Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan)
Ms. Julie Emond (Canada)
Mr. Taavo Lumiste (Estonia)
Mr. Daniel Carl (United States of America)
Mr. Aamar Aftab Qureshi (Pakistan)
Mr. Raphael Hermoso (Philippines)

Rapporteur: Ms. Tia Hanna (Bahamas)

95. Following established practice, the Board agreed that the coordinators of regional groups and other recognized groups of UNCTAD would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Board.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
(Agenda item 1 (b))

96. At its opening plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as contained in (see annex I).

97. It was noted that there was agreement not to hold negotiations on agreed conclusions as the session was shorter than usual. Agreed conclusions on agenda item 5 would be considered during the forthcoming executive session of the Board in 2017.

D. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters
(Agenda item 10)

Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2014–2015 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2016

98. At its 1148th closing plenary meeting, the Board elected members of the Advisory Body for 2017 as follows: Mr. Juan Falconi Puig (Ecuador); Mr. Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt (Guatemala); Mr. Alfredo Suescum (Panama); Mr. Andre Pung (Estonia); Mr. Piotr Stachańczyk (Poland); Mr. Leopold Samba (Central African Republic); Mr. Negash Botora (Ethiopia); Mr. Mohamed Auajjar (Morocco); Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mr. Sumit Seth (India); Mr. Frédéric Paruta (France); and Ms. Hilda Ali Rashid Al-Hinai (Oman).

99. The Board also agreed that the President of the Board would chair the Advisory Body in 2017.

Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

100. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration.[1]

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

101. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration.[2]

[1] A list of the intergovernmental bodies currently in status with UNCTAD is contained in document .

[2] A list of the non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD in the general category and in the special category is contained in document .

Review of the calendar of meetings

102. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board approved the calendar of meetings for 2017, as contained in the non-paper dated 9 December 2016, with one amendment. At the request of one delegation, the dates for the intersessional panel of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would be added for information only, as that meeting was a part of the meetings calendar for the United Nations in New York.[3]

103. The secretariat noted that the calendar would be revised after a decision was taken on the expert meetings and, thus, only included dates for the existing intergovernmental groups of experts and the sessions of the commissions, Working Party and Trade and Development Board.

Membership of the Working Party for 2017

104. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board also approved the membership of the Working Party for 2017 as follows: Austria, Brazil, Belarus, Canada, China, Estonia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Panama, the Russian Federation, Tunisia and the United States of America.

Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

105. No action was required under the agenda item.

Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

106. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board was informed that the actions taken at its sixty-third session had no additional financial implications.

E. Adoption of the report on credentials
(Agenda item 1 (c))

107. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-third session of the Board, as contained in document.

F. Other business
(Agenda item 11)

108. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, to be held from 6 to 8 February 2016, as contained in the non-paper dated 11 November 2016 (annex II).

G. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Board
(Agenda item 1 (d))

109. Consideration of the agenda item was referred to the consultations of the President of the Board. The provisional agenda for the session would be submitted for approval at an appropriate time.

[3] The official calendar will be issued as document .

H. Adoption of the report

(Agenda item 12)

110. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board adopted its report on the sixty-third session. The Board further authorized the President with the assistance of the Rapporteur to finalize the report of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly, taking into account the proceedings of the closing plenary. The report would also include the President's summary on substantive agenda items, the decisions and actions taken during the session and procedural and related matters.

Annex I

Agenda for the sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:
   - (a) Election of officers
   - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   - (d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Board
2. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
3. Investment for development
4. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Fifth progress report
6. Technical cooperation activities:
   - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference
8. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
9. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
   - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
   - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
10. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
    - (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2015–2016 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2017
    - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
    - (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
    - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
    - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2017
    - (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
    - (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report

Annex II

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*
3. Other items requiring action by the Board
4. Other business
5. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fourth executive session

Annex III

Attendance[4]

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Algeria
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Czechia
Ecuador
Estonia
Ethiopia
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
India
Iraq
Ireland
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Madagascar
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Oman
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Zimbabwe

2. The following member of the Conference attended the session:

Holy See

3. The following non-member observer State attended the session:

State of Palestine

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Accredited

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

[4] This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see .

European Free Trade Association
European Union
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
South Centre

Non-accredited

Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency

5. The following United Nations organ, body or programme was represented at the session:

International Trade Centre

6. The following specialized agency or related organization was represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
International Chamber of Commerce
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Special category

World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

United Nations A/72/15 (Part II)

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Seventy-second session

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fourth executive session*

Geneva, 6-8 February 2017

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fourth executive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 6 to 8 February 2017. It will appear in final form, together with the reports of the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions, the thirty-first special session and the sixty-fifth executive session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/72/15).

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Introduction

The sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 8 February 2017. In the course of the session, the Board held four plenary meetings.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board

A. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*[1]

Agreed conclusions 530 (EX-LXIV)

The Trade and Development Board,

Welcoming the continued efforts of UNCTAD towards implementing priorities in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), and taking into account the Nairobi Maafikiano,

1. *Notes* that limited progress has been made towards graduation, making the objective of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet graduation criteria by 2020 challenging;

2. *Expresses concern* that, in the five years since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the least developed countries as a group achieved annual growth below the target of 7 per cent necessary to significantly reduce extreme poverty and put those countries on the path of sustained economic growth and development;

3. *Further encourages* Governments of the least developed countries to put forward comprehensive policies and strategies to effectively address the socioeconomic challenges, marginalization and underdevelopment of those countries, and welcomes the support of development partners in this regard, including through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Underscores* the importance of empowering the least developed countries to build their productive capacities with a view to the structural transformation of their economies, build resilience to external shocks, and achieve broad-based, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Emphasizes* that UNCTAD work on the least developed countries should inter alia include exploring ways and means of reducing their vulnerability, and expresses appreciation for ongoing UNCTAD work and assistance to the least developed countries in this regard;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhanced support to the least developed countries to enable them to achieve the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action by 2020, to reach a higher level of sustainable growth and development, as well as for the least developed countries and their development partners to make best use of existing initiatives and programmes, including relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization;

[1] As agreed at the sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board, the present agreed conclusions encompass agenda item 5 of that session, Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, as well as agenda item 2 of the sixty-fourth executive session of the Board.

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of harnessing financing from all appropriate sources in support of development, including domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance, foreign direct investment and private remittances;

8. *Expresses appreciation* to bilateral donors for their continued support, in particular to those that have met the commitment by many developed countries of official development assistance targets of 0.15–0.20 per cent of gross national income to the least developed countries, and encourages others to make their best efforts to meet the agreed targets as contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, underscoring the importance of enhancing the quality of aid to the least developed countries;

9. *Reaffirms* that UNCTAD, within its mandate should strengthen its work in support of the least developed countries through its pillars of research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation, for the further implementation of all relevant priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including on market access, rules of origin and the services waiver;

10. *Requests* UNCTAD, within the framework of the existing expert group meetings, to organize a single-year expert meeting dedicated to discussion of ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and focused on its goals and targets related to productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in global exports;

11. *Invites* donors and other developing countries in a position to do so to replenish the UNCTAD Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries, which serves as an important tool for UNCTAD to quickly and effectively respond to increasing demands from the least developed countries for its work;

12. *Notes The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Path to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*, and takes note of the policy recommendations contained therein, recognizing the importance of policies towards graduation with momentum.

Closing plenary meeting
8 February 2017

B. Other items requiring action by the Board

(Agenda item 3)

Report of the Trade and Development Commission

1. The Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Trade and Development Commission on its eighth session, as contained in document TD/B/C.I/40.

Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

2. The Board took note of the report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its eighth session, as contained in document TD/B/C.II/33, and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

C. Other business

(Agenda item 4)

3. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board agreed on a two-phased approach, proposed by the President of the Board, to be undertaken with a view to implementing the Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2).

4. The Board agreed to the following components for phase I of the operationalization of the new intergovernmental groups of experts, in accordance with subparagraphs 100 (r) and (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, and related issues:

(a) Of the six existing multi-year expert meetings, the topics of the multi-year expert meetings would remain as currently established for the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development, Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development, Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development and Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation. The remaining two multi-year expert meetings, the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation and the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, would be merged into one multi-year expert meeting. That merged multi-year expert meeting would be the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation, with a consequent merging of the topics it would cover.

(i) Accordingly, the terms of reference of the multi-year expert meetings would likewise remain the same, with the exception of applicable portions of the terms of reference of the two merged multi-year expert meetings which would be applied to the respective components of the newly merged multi-year expert meeting, subject to their review to prevent unnecessary duplication.

(ii) A topic for the single-year expert group meeting for 2017 was expected to be an outcome of the sixty-fourth executive session of the Board.[2]

(b) Regarding the proposed reflection exercise,[3] the President of the Board would prepare a survey, with the assistance of the secretariat, focused on the aspects that would help UNCTAD to improve its methods of work and put it on a better footing to fully implement the Nairobi Maafikiano, as well as better prepare for the next quadrennial conference. The survey would be circulated to all member States, with the results to be summarized and likewise circulated to member States for their information. All member States were encouraged to participate in the survey.

(c) The Board also agreed that the draft format of the agreed conclusions on LDCs circulated to member States was acceptable and that consultations would begin on their substance, with a view to reaching a conclusion during the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development.

(d) The Board agreed that, based on the good progress already made, work on the terms of reference for the two new intergovernmental groups of experts would be concluded by 28 February 2017, along with the work programme for the multi-year expert meetings for the next four years.

(e) The Board further committed to resume work on those terms of reference immediately after the conclusion of the executive session, and concentrate efforts during the executive session on reaching consensus on agreed conclusions on LDCs.

5. In broad terms, the Board agreed that phase II of the operationalization of the Nairobi Maafikiano, namely the revitalization of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, would consist of a series of brainstorming sessions. The Board agreed that phase II would not begin until phase I had been completed in its entirety. The approach and timeline for phase II would be detailed as soon as possible after the conclusion of phase I by the end of February 2017.

[2] See chapter I above.

[3] See TD/B/63/7, in particular chapter II, sections A and H.

II. President's summary

A. Opening plenary

6. In his opening statement, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD emphasized that there were growing signs that the targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) for growth in gross domestic product and for graduation would be missed. The situation was an urgent call for renewed and enhanced international support towards the least developed countries (LDCs). While the flows of official development assistance to LDCs amounted to more than $20 billion a year, LDCs were currently also losing almost an equivalent amount in terms of export revenues per year due to restrictive measures imposed by countries of the Group of 20. He noted that how LDCs graduated from the category was at least as important as when they graduated, and recalled that technology remained the "missing link" in the development "toolbox" of those countries. He also called upon donors to replenish the UNCTAD Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

7. The Deputy Secretary-General furthermore urged delegations to reach a constructive agreement on the operationalization of the two intergovernmental groups of experts that had been established at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi in 2016, and member States to clarify how UNCTAD should deliver on the operationalization of those intergovernmental groups of experts.

8. During the UNCTAD secretariat presentation on *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Path to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*, the newly appointed Director of the UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes expressed his commitment to supporting member States in the achievement of their development objectives. The Chief of the UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Section summarized the key messages and main policy recommendations of the report, stressing that statistical projections suggested only 16 countries were expected to fully meet graduation criteria by 2021. He also underscored that existing international support measures for LDCs appeared to be insufficient and ineffective vis-à-vis the development challenges of LDCs.

9. The representatives of the following regional groups and delegations then made statements: the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Bangladesh, on behalf of the least developed countries; the Sudan, on behalf of the African Group; Barbados, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; Pakistan, on behalf of the Asia–Pacific Group; the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group; Japan, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the Philippines, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; Barbados, on behalf of the small island developing States; Estonia, on behalf of Group D; China; Uganda; Ethiopia; Algeria; Nepal; the State of Palestine; Tunisia; Morocco; Chad; the United States of America; and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. Delegations commended the UNCTAD secretariat for the quality and relevance of the research and insightful policy analysis in *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016*, and for suggesting relevant and concrete policy recommendations, which most of them endorsed. Some delegations praised the report for explicitly addressing gender-related issues. Most delegations noted with concern, however, that to date only four countries had been able to graduate from the LDC category. Many delegations urged the international community to enhance the effectiveness of international support measures towards LDCs, matched by proper monitoring and evaluation of those measures. One delegate called for effective operationalization of the LDC services waiver under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

11. Several delegations and delegates regretted the global growth slowdown and the lingering presence of downside economic risks. The growth performance of LDCs had already been affected, dropping to below the 7 per cent target of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The delegations also expressed concern regarding the projection that the graduation targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action were unlikely to be met by 2021. The situation further highlighted the need for enhanced international support measures for LDCs, as LDCs were the battleground for winning or losing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some delegates noted a concern that most African LDCs would not qualify for graduation by 2021. Another delegate stressed the efforts made by his country to exit the category and to achieve sustainable development.

12. The representative of one regional group called for effective operationalization of the United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. The representative of another regional group stated that synergies should be promoted and duplication avoided when operationalizing the Technology Bank. Another regional group called for the replenishment of the UNCTAD Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries. Another regional group noted that LDCs should retain their policy space in order to effectively achieve targets set in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The representative of another regional group noted the special role that women should play in structural transformation in LDCs. The representative of one association underscored the importance of sharing home-grown experiences and best practices that could be beneficial to the development of LDCs.

13. Several delegations urged effective implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano, for a revitalized UNCTAD and to operationalize the intergovernmental groups of experts agreed upon during the fourteenth session of the Conference.

14. Some delegates expressed concern in relation to growing uncertainties regarding the multilateral system, and reiterated a call for more constructive international cooperation, including through South–South cooperation and close policy coordination at the regional level. Another delegate noted the vulnerability of LDCs to swings in commodity prices and the need for increased economic diversification. The representative of one regional group highlighted the special economic and environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States that were also LDCs, and expressed concern about the future of their financial industries.

15. Some delegations highlighted that, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, LDCs had a primary role to play in mobilizing finance for development. Though official development assistance flows to LDCs were significant, they also noted that foreign direct investment and remittances were equally sizeable and should be paid due consideration, while underscoring the important role of the private sector. One delegation stated that the concerns and advancement of LDCs should be at the core of UNCTAD work.

16. Many delegations urged meeting participants to reach an agreement constructively on budget and financial issues, to be integrated into the agreed conclusions of the session, with a view to enabling UNCTAD to implement its mandate in line with the new priorities set out in the Nairobi Maafikiano, in particular paragraph 55 (dd). They also called for UNCTAD to be provided with adequate resources in that regard.

17. In response to the budgetary concerns related to paragraph 55 (dd), the UNCTAD secretariat provided an overview of the process for the proposed 2018–2019 programme biennium budget that had been submitted to United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the decisions taken at the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget and the sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board in December 2016. Currently, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was reconciling individual proposals with the overall planning figure approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2016. As per past practice, after the United

Nations published the budget fascicle for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly, a briefing would be held in May 2017 to transmit the main elements of the budget proposal of the United Nations Secretariat. That mechanism ensured full alignment of the work of the Trade and Development Board with the prerogatives of the General Assembly, and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a consolidated budget proposal for the entire United Nations Secretariat to be considered by the Member States.

18. One delegation requested clarification on the impression that the budget for UNCTAD had been increased, rather than decreased based on a General Assembly document from December 2016. The UNCTAD secretariat explained that, as part of the process for financing for development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNCTAD had received temporary funding specifically to support the Sustainable Development Goals. In response to a request from another delegation, the secretariat confirmed that a briefing on the approved budget would also be held in Geneva for UNCTAD member States, as the budget for the United Nations continued to face reductions that could affect implementation, and the final budget for UNCTAD was determined based on the instructions received from the United Nations Secretariat.

B. Panel discussion: *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*

(Item 2)

19. The Trade and Development Board held a panel discussion on sustainable energy for structural transformation in LDCs. In his opening statement, the President of the Board introduced the panel which consisted of experts from the private sector, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the University of Vermont (United States of America), the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Trade Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNCTAD secretariat. The Chief of the UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Section opened the discussion, highlighting the importance of energy for structural transformation of LDCs and for their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. The panellists' presentations covered the following issues: (a) the energy architecture of LDCs and the policy and technology choices of LDCs; (b) the energy extractive sector in LDCs; (c) the gender dimension underpinning the positive impact of access to energy on long-term development in LDCs; (d) deployment of robust energy policy choices for LDCs; (e) the potential of renewable energy in a future energy mix of LDCs; and (f) the role of trade and environment measures in sustainable energy for LDCs. Important policy questions addressed were whether LDCs could leapfrog to a sustainable energy architecture and the enablers and barriers facing them in doing so; whether there were important relationships between gender dynamics and increased access to energy in LDCs; whether LDCs could learn from successes and failures from other developing countries; whether renewable energy sources could play a significant role in the future electricity mix of LDCs and the factors to take into account; and how trade and environmental considerations could be factored in to influence the energy mix of LDCs.

21. Several delegates commended UNCTAD on the thematic focus of the panel discussion. They highlighted the critical and cross-cutting nature of energy for structural transformation and development in LDCs. They also commended UNCTAD for promoting synergies on renewable energy sources across the United Nations Secretariat, as evidenced by the participation of presenters from other UNCTAD divisions and United Nations bodies and programmes. One delegate was appreciative that the panel presentations also highlighted examples of failures in renewable energy projects, as failures represented an important source

of learning. Another delegate praised UNCTAD for advancing the debate on renewable energy sources and contributing to the evolution of development thinking on sustainable development and globalization. He also emphasized the need to avoid narrow debates in this respect.

22. Several delegates highlighted their individual country experiences in advancing access to energy and the adoption of renewable energies. They underlined the combined role of public investment and regulation as an effective strategy to expand access to isolated areas, while simultaneously crowding in private investment and stimulating the local economy, thus creating jobs and providing energy for businesses. One delegate cited examples of realized and planned investments in wind, solar, hydropower and geothermal energy aimed at increasing the share of renewable energies.

23. Several delegates cited the lack of financing as a major constraint on energy expansion in LDCs and developing countries. One delegate described financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation as one of the most challenging areas for developing countries, with available resources still significantly inadequate. He cited the various pillars that underpinned his country's proposal to mobilize and facilitate financing for renewable energy sources, including a one-stop window and fast-track facility for grant funding; a financier network and a donor club bringing together private and multilateral financiers; and promoting green capital markets. Another delegate suggested that LDCs and other developing countries could manage energy demand by prioritizing diversification into sectors that were less reliant on energy as one way to work around the financing problem. He also pointed to the possibility that LDCs and other developing countries had of leapfrogging to renewable energy sources in the same way that Central and Eastern European countries had leapfrogged to information technologies.

24. One delegate highlighted the linkages between biofuels and value addition in the agricultural sector and, by extension, their contribution to structural transformation in appropriate contexts. The contributions of UNCTAD to the debate on biofuels were praised in that respect.

25. Another delegate emphasized technical assistance and capacity development to develop bankable national projects, including by promoting South–South cooperation at the regional level. Another delegate also requested technical assistance from UNCTAD in the energy field in LDCs.

26. In their concluding remarks and responses to issues raised in the discussion, the panellists noted that climate change was an example of a common problem requiring common solutions. There was a clear trend in cost reductions in renewable technologies that offered significant opportunities for leapfrogging. Most energy investments of LDCs already combined public and private sector resources, and affordability of electricity continued to be an important issue for ensuring universal access. Many energy projects also aimed for large gains in the shortest time but it would be necessary to raise awareness of local solutions with a long-term view. Finally, there was no silver bullet to address energy-related challenges but rather a portfolio of solutions, which encompassed not only access and energy generation issues, but also distribution, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and a circular economy.

III. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
(Agenda item 1)

27. At its opening plenary meeting, on 6 February 2017, the Trade and Development Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session as contained in document TD/B/EX(64)/1. Accordingly, the agenda for the executive session was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process

3. Other items requiring action by the Board

4. Other business

5. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fourth executive session

B. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-third executive session

(Agenda item 5)

28. At the closing plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board authorized the completion of the report after the conclusion of the meeting under the authority of the President and the Rapporteur.

Annex

Attendance[4]

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania
Algeria
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Congo
Djibouti
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lesotho
Madagascar
Mexico
Nepal
Oman
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Russian Federation
Senegal
Serbia
Sudan
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
United States of America

2. Representatives of the following member of the Conference attended the session:

Holy See

3. Representatives of the following non-member observer State of Trade and Development Board attended the session:

State of Palestine

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Organization of Islamic Cooperation
South Centre
West African Economic and Monetary Union

[4] This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(64)/INF.1.

5. The following United Nations organs, bodies and programmes were represented at the session:

Economic Commission for Europe

6. The following specialized agencies or related organizations were represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Introduction

The thirty-first special session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 5 April 2017. In the course of the session, the Board held one plenary meeting.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board

A. Substantive topics for the forthcoming sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission

(Agenda item 4)

1. The Trade and Development Board approved the proposed substantive topics for the ninth sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission.

2. Accordingly, the substantive topic for the ninth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission is as follows:

- From decisions to actions: Investment and enterprise development as catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. The Board also approved the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, to be held on 20–24 November 2017 (see annex I).

4. The substantive topic for the ninth session of the Trade and Development Commission is as follows:

- From decisions to actions: Trade as a catalyst for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5. In addition, the Board approved the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Trade and Development Commission, to be held on 27 November–1 December 2017 (see annex II).

B. Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development

(Agenda item 5)

6. The Trade and Development Board approved the terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development (see annex III and annex IV, respectively).

C. Topics for the first sessions of multi-year expert meetings

(Agenda item 6)

7. The Board approved the topics for the first sessions of the multi-year expert meetings under the mandate of the Nairobi Maafikiano (see annex V).

II. President's summary

Opening statement

8. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD underscored that the consensus-based approach practised by member States in the lead up to the session reflected the strength of multilateralism at a time of many challenges and was in the spirit of the Nairobi Maafikiano. It also illustrated a firm commitment to realizing the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among the agreements reached by consensus were the terms of reference for the two new intergovernmental groups of experts and the provisional agenda of the annual session of the Trade and Development Board in September. He confirmed that the UNCTAD secretariat would offer all the support necessary to realize the expectations of member States as work on the Nairobi Maafikiano progressed. He also shared plans for a series of consultations at the level of heads of missions, for all regions, as a way to share the secretariat's insights on the emerging strategy on implementing the Nairobi Maafikiano and to gather the views of member States, through heads of missions and experts, on how best to realize the expectations created of the intergovernmental machinery.

9. One delegate emphasized the importance of the efforts needed to reinforce the intergovernmental machinery. He noted that almost one year had passed since the last ministerial conference and that there was still much work to be done to demonstrate that the substance of what was agreed then would be fulfilled. To that end, the experience of the new Secretary of the Board would help in finding solutions to enhance the intergovernmental machinery.

Closing statements

10. The representatives of most regional groups noted that there had been significant progress made at the thirty-first special session of the Board in moving forward on realizing the decisions taken in Nairobi. The consensus reached on the agendas, topics and revised calendar, and particularly on the terms of reference for the two new intergovernmental groups of experts, was an important step in the implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano. Noting the positive spirit in which the session's agenda items had been approved, most regional groups reiterated the importance of full implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano and underscored that the UNCTAD mandate was in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international instruments. Many regional groups noted the importance of moving to phase II of implementation, namely the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. The representatives of some regional groups recalled that, prior to starting on phase II, the reflection exercise of phase I required completion, namely the voluntary survey and circulation of the report of the President on the results of the survey.

11. The representative of one regional group emphasized the important effort that had been made to mainstream the special needs of landlocked developing countries into the work of UNCTAD and expressed the expectation of more substantive discussions in the intergovernmental machinery, particularly the Trade and Development Board, through improved reporting on activities and provision of analyses in all publications in support of their development. One delegate added that the multilateral commitment to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals was active and intense, which should be mirrored in efforts to implement the Nairobi Maafikiano. There should be synergy between Geneva and New York, as the issues were the same for the United Nations and UNCTAD, and adherence to the substance of development.

12. The President of the Board took note of all statements, which would be taken into consideration. In the following weeks, work on phase II would begin with a view to revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery and fulfilling the decisions taken in Nairobi. While some unfinished matters needed to be concluded, it was important to keep in mind the need for transparency in dealing with those matters and be concerned about the people for

whom the Board was working. Thus, the Board would move as quickly as possible, while taking into account the views of all.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
(Agenda item 1)

13. The Trade and Development Board adopted the provisional agenda, as contained in document TD/B(S-XXXI)/1 (see annex VI).

B. Agenda of the sixty-fifth executive session of the Trade and Development Board
(Agenda item 2)

14. The Board approved the provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth executive session, to be held on 27 June 2017 (see annex VII).

C. Agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board
(Agenda item 3)

15. Under the agenda item, the provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board to be held in September 2017 was under consideration by the Board. The Board approved the provisional agenda (see annex VIII) on the understanding that: (a) the topic of the high-level segment would be reviewed and approved by the extended Bureau of the Board at a later date; (b) there remained space for the Board to clarify other matters under its consideration; and (c) the 2017 report on agenda item 10 would focus on small island developing States, while the 2018 report on the same item would focus on landlocked developing countries.

16. The representatives of several regional groups noted that items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda should remain separate, as agreed at the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Board on the previous day. The representatives of some other regional groups underscored the agreement on consideration of an additional item on management issues that reflected a future vision of UNCTAD and some of its other work.

17. The Board agreed that the extended Bureau would be entrusted with the conclusion of the remaining work on the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Board, taking into account the comments made.

D. Revised calendar of meetings
(Agenda item 7)

18. The Board also approved the revised calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2017.*

* The revised official calendar of meetings will be issued as document TD/B/INF.237/Rev.1.

E. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 8)

As per past practice, the Trade and Development Board authorized the President to complete the report on its thirty-first special session after the conclusion of the meeting. The report would contain all decisions taken and the agendas and terms of reference approved by the Board during the session.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, ninth session

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings
   (a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
   (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its thirty-first session
4. From decisions to actions: Investment and enterprise development as catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
5. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Provisional agenda for the Trade and Development Commission, ninth session

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings
   (a) Reports of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings:
      (i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation
      (ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
      (iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development
      (iv) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation
      (v) Expert Meeting on the Ways and Means of Improving the Implementation of Priority Areas Agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action
   (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
   (c) Reports of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
4. From decisions to actions: Trade as a catalyst for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
5. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

Annex III

Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

I. Background

1. As stated in subparagraphs 100 (r) and (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[a] the Trade and Development Board will operationalize the creation of two new intergovernmental groups of experts, on e-commerce and the digital economy and on financing for development. The present terms of reference establish the modalities for the operationalization of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

II. Organizational considerations

2. **Composition**. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be composed of government representatives with relevant expertise. Specialized expertise from civil society, the private sector and academia will be invited, as appropriate, for consultative purposes, and will vary according to specific topics and themes. Member States may consider designating a focal point for continuous liaison with the Intergovernmental Group of Experts.

3. **Working modalities**. It is proposed that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts follow the standard procedures and methods of work for intergovernmental meetings at UNCTAD. At its first meeting, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will decide on appropriate organizational and working modalities. In order to maximize the impact and participation of the group deliberations, arrangements shall be made for remote participation to complement the meeting.

4. **Frequency**. One plenary session per year.

5. **Length**. Not to exceed three days.

6. **Timing**. The first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy should take place in the last quarter of 2017 and report to the Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board. Subsequent sessions should take place in the second quarter of each year, in conjunction with the UNCTAD E-commerce Week, and report to the annual session of the Trade and Development Board. Meetings should be convened back-to-back with other relevant meetings in order to create synergies for participating delegates.

7. **Outcomes**:

(a) Agreed policy recommendations drawn from the discussions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board;

(b) A report produced under the responsibility of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to inform discussions at the Trade and Development Board;

(c) The Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall decide topics and guiding questions for subsequent sessions including the provisional agenda.

8. **Reporting**. Reports to the Trade and Development Board.

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[a] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

9. **Lead division servicing the group of experts**. Division on Technology and Logistics, in coordination with other relevant divisions of UNCTAD, overseen by the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board.

10. **Documentation**. Documentation for each session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will consist of a provisional agenda, issues notes (a maximum of one per substantive agenda item) and a report of the session. Issues notes will be produced before each annual session, outlining the key issues to be examined by the experts and responding to the guiding questions (see appendix).

11. **Anticipated funding needs to enable participation**. To ensure the effective participation of government representatives from developing countries, especially from the least developed countries, funds for their travel and per diem expenses would be important. If the Intergovernmental Group of Experts takes a decision to carry out intersessional activities, it may be necessary to seek additional voluntary/extrabudgetary resources.

III. Proposed policy focus

12. The policy focus of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be on maximizing the development gains from e-commerce and the digital economy, and addressing associated challenges, and thus strengthening its development dimension.

13. *Opportunities*. Opportunities that may arise for developing countries include reduced transaction costs, better access to customers domestically and abroad, participation in global value chains, enhanced productivity, entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation in the digital sector, possibilities to connect rural and urban markets, benefits for consumers, and new ways to overcome barriers to business development.

14. *Challenges*. Challenges for developing countries may include inadequate information and communications technology and industrial infrastructure and use; limited access to energy, unreliable and costly power supply; limited access to credit, lack of appropriate payment solutions; limited access to technology, lack of purchasing power and underdeveloped financial systems; concerns about job losses due to crowding out or automation; deteriorating trade balances; risk of market dominance by some firms; revenue losses; widening digital divides as the digital economy evolves; inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks; reliance on cash in society; and low levels of information and communications technology literacy, awareness and knowledge related to e-commerce among consumers, enterprises and Governments. Barriers can be particularly high for microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises.

15. More comprehensive assistance is needed in support of capacity-building aimed at overcoming challenges identified above. The eTrade for All initiative should have an important role to play in this regard.

16. The deliberations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will offer an opportunity to strengthen synergies between the consensus-building efforts, research and analysis and technical assistance of UNCTAD. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will also serve to build a community of digital economy policymakers among developing and developed countries. Sharing of experience among policymakers and with other stakeholders will be central in this context. Discussions on the results of national information and communications technology policy reviews may provide valuable inputs.

Appendix

Topics and guiding questions for the first session

(i) What do developing countries need in order to build competitive advantages through e-commerce and the digital economy?

(ii) What can developing countries do in order to strengthen their physical and technology infrastructure?

(iii) How can developed countries partner with developing countries, in the most impactful way, to maximize opportunities and address challenges relating to e-commerce and the digital economy?

Annex IV

Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development

I. Background

1. As stated in subparagraphs 100 (r) and (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[a] the Trade and Development Board will operationalize the creation of two new intergovernmental expert groups on financing for development and on e-commerce and the digital economy. The present terms of reference establish the modalities for the operationalization of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.

II. Organizational considerations

2. **Composition**. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will be composed of government representatives with relevant expertise. Specialized expertise from civil society, the private sector and academia will be invited, as appropriate, for consultative purposes, and will vary according to specific topics and themes. Member States may consider designating a focal point for continuous liaison with the Intergovernmental Group of Experts.

3. **Working modalities**. It is proposed that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts follow the standard procedures and methods of work for intergovernmental meetings at UNCTAD. At its first meeting, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will decide on appropriate organizational and working modalities to maximize synergies between the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD and the follow-up process on financing for development in the United Nations system. By providing expert policy recommendations to the Trade and Development Board, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will support UNCTAD in formulating contributions to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up. In order to maximize the impact and participation of the group deliberations, arrangements shall be made for remote participation to complement the meeting.

4. **Frequency**. One plenary session per year.

5. **Length**. Not to exceed three days.

6. **Timing**. To ensure that the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development contributes meaningfully to UNCTAD input into the United Nations-wide financing for development follow-up process, sessions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts should take place in the fourth quarter of each year. This allows for the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to be considered by the Trade and Development Board at its December or January session. Where possible, meetings should be convened back-to-back with other relevant meetings in order to create synergies for participating delegates.

7. **Outcomes**:

(a) Agreed policy recommendations drawn from the discussions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board;

[a] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

(b) A report produced under the responsibility of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to inform discussions at the Trade and Development Board;

(c) Topics and guiding questions for subsequent sessions including provisional agenda, informed by the Inter-Agency Task Force report and guided by the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

8. **Reporting**. Reports to the Trade and Development Board.

9. **Lead division servicing the group of experts**. Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, in coordination with other relevant divisions of UNCTAD, overseen by the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board.

10. **Documentation**. Documentation for each session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will consist of a provisional agenda, issues notes (a maximum of one per substantive agenda item) and a report of the session. Issues notes will be produced before each annual session, outlining the key issues to be examined by the experts and responding to the guiding questions (see appendix).

11. **Anticipated funding needs to enable participation**. To ensure the effective participation of government representatives from developing countries, especially from the least developed countries, funds for their travel and per diem expenses would be important. If the Intergovernmental Group of Experts takes a decision to carry out intersessional activities, it may be necessary to seek additional voluntary/extrabudgetary resources.

III. Proposed policy focus

12. The Nairobi Maafikiano specifies that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will address "financing for development, as reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and within the work of UNCTAD" (subparagraph 100 (r)). It furthermore stipulates that UNCTAD should "contribute, through its three pillars of work, to the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda" (subparagraph 100 (a)) and "continue to contribute to the dedicated follow-up to and review of the International Conference on Financing for Development outcomes" (subparagraph 100 (i)).

13. The policy focus will be on core financial resource mobilization for sustainable development action areas in sections A–C, E and F of chapter II of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[b] within the UNCTAD mandate and limiting duplication.

14. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall address the guiding questions in the appendix below. In order to ensure UNCTAD contributes effectively to the follow-up process on financing for development, the selection of Intergovernmental Group of Experts topics for subsequent years will be guided by deliberations in the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

Appendix

Topics and guiding questions for the first session

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will focus on the action areas of sections A and C (domestic public resources and international development cooperation, respectively) of chapter II of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda:

[b] See General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

(a) *Domestic public resources*

What can be done to enhance the mobilization of domestic public resources for development in developing countries?

(b) *International development cooperation*

How can international development cooperation maximize its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?

Annex V

Topics for the first sessions of multi-year expert meetings

A. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation

Relevant mandates

1. Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 (of general relevance); subparagraphs 38 (j), (k), (p), (s), (x) and (z); subparagraphs 55 (b), (f)–(l), (x), (aa) and (gg); subparagraphs 76 (d), (e), (s) and (t); and subparagraphs 100 (d) and (t).

2. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.5, 1.a, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.10, 9.1, 9.a, 9.c, 10.b, 11.b, 13.1, 13,2, 13.3, 14.1, 14.2, 14.c, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.8–17.11, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.19.

3. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 34, 48, 50–57, 59–62, 64–66, 68, 69, 74, 80, 87, 88, 90, 103, 113, 115 and 125–128.

Session for 2017: Trade facilitation and international transport

4. The 2017 session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will address the underlying linkages between, on the one hand, international transport and trade facilitation and, on the other hand, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The session will help set the tone and lay the groundwork for the subsequent three sessions of the multi-year expert meeting, which will consider in greater detail the specific implications of a new, universal and transformative trade and sustainability policy framework for the logistics of international trade.

Main issues for the session

5. Discussions will focus on trade facilitation and international transport, including ports, as well as maritime, multimodal and transit transport. The aim is to generate insight and guidance to help member States make informed decisions and adopt adequate policies that promote efficient transport systems, reduce transport and trade transaction costs, improve transit transport operations, facilitate trade transactions, enhance transport connectivity, enable a supportive legal framework, and promote trade and trade competitiveness. Experts will pay particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, transit developing countries and structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies.

B. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development

Relevant mandates

6. Nairobi Maafikiano. Subparagraphs 55 (b), (c), (n), (o) and (cc); subparagraphs 76 (a), (s), (t) and (aa); subparagraphs 38 (c), (m), (s) and (z); subparagraph 55 (d); and subparagraph 100 (a).

7. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality (financial services), Goal 6 on water and sanitation (water services), Goal 7 on ensuring access to energy (energy services), Goal 8 on sustained

* A/RES/70/1.

growth (financial services), Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure (e.g. financial, information and communications technology and telecommunication, transport services), Goal 10 on reducing inequality (remittances) and Goal 17 on revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

8. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraphs 12, 14, 24, 33, 34, 39, 40, 49, 80, 82 and 87.

Session for 2017: The role of the services economy and trade in structural transformation and inclusive development

9. The objective of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development continues to be providing enhanced understanding on the potential of the services economy and trade, particularly infrastructure services, for economic transformation, growth, poverty eradication and job creation, and on the multidimensional importance of these linkages as levers for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. It will aim at providing tools for participants to identify best-fit, coherent and comprehensive services policy, regulatory and institutional approaches and to engage in trade negotiations and international cooperation at the multilateral and regional levels, which enable the development potential of services. To pursue these objectives, the multi-year expert meeting provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation, and in particular for facilitating an exchange of views and lessons learned between policymakers, trade negotiators and regulators.

10. The importance of services for development is recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes Sustainable Development Goal 1 on ending poverty (financial services), Goal 2 on ending hunger (financial services), Goal 3 on health (health services), Goal 4 on education (education services), Goal 5 on gender equality (financial services), Goal 6 on water and sanitation (water and sanitation services), Goal 7 on energy (energy services), Goal 8 on economic growth and employment (financial services), Goal 9 on infrastructure (infrastructure, financial, telecommunication and information and communications technology services), Goal 10 on reducing inequality (financial services and remittances), Goal 11 on human settlements (transport services), and Goal 17 on means of implementation (information and communications technology services, multilateral trading system and policy coherence). Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is to a great extent a services agenda.

11. The Nairobi Maafikiano of UNCTAD confirms and orients the mandate to work on the linkages between the economy and trade in services, including infrastructure services and economic transformation and development. Relevant subparagraphs in the Nairobi Maafikiano include subparagraph 55 (n) on services, subparagraph 38 (z) on trade and services, subparagraph 55 (b) on trade, diversification, and upgrading in goods and services value chains, subparagraphs 38 (c) and 55 (cc) on financial services and remittances, subparagraph 38 (j) on transport services and subparagraph 55 (u) on telecommunications, information and communications technology services and the digital economy. This Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development focuses on these linkages and builds on the outcome of previous multi-year expert meetings on services.

Main issues for the session

12. The role of the services economy and trade, particularly of infrastructure services, in leading structural transformation and the coherence of policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks that promote services productive and export capacity and are conducive of a resulting structural transformation, consistent with competitiveness, diversification and value chain participation and upgrading inclusive and sustainable development aspirations for 2017.

C. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

Relevant mandates

13. Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 22, 30, 59, 82 (of general relevance); subparagraphs 38 (o), 55 (d), 76 (p) and 100 (h).

14. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraphs 108 and 116.

15. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal targets 2.c and 9.b.

16. The multi-year expert meetings will monitor the developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets, giving due attention to those commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries.

Session for 2017: Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals

17. Commodity dependence is narrowly associated with low levels of human development, as a recent UNCTAD study has shown; as a result, many commodity-dependent developing countries are characterized by high levels of poverty. Therefore, it is important to review and evaluate the contribution of the commodities sector to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the expert meeting will critically look at the issues that follow below.

Main issues for the session

18. Policy options that increase access to food and energy (Sustainable Development Goal targets 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 7.1 and 7.b), foster value addition to commodities (target 9.b) and improve the management of natural resources through, inter alia, efficiency in resource use, while preserving the natural resource capital used to produce renewable resources (Sustainable Development Goals 12, 14 and 15).

D. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development

Relevant mandates

19. Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 42, 43, 51, 64 and 70 (of general relevance), subparagraph 55 (t) on harnessing science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and subparagraphs 38 (v) and 55 (r), (q), (y) and (hh).

20. Other paragraphs of the Nairobi Maafikiano. Paragraphs 23 and 27; subparagraphs 38 (g), (p) and (q); paragraphs 40, 42, 43, 45, 49 and 51; subparagraphs 55 (p), (q), (r), (y) and (hh); paragraphs 58, 62, 63, 64, 68, 70, 71 and 74; subparagraphs 76 (h), (i), (n), (o), (u), (w), (bb) and (cc); paragraphs 83 and 96; and subparagraph 100 (a).

Session for 2017: International investment policies and sustainable development

21. The Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will form a continuation of the pre-Nairobi, multi-year expert meetings on related issues by expanding the scope of the expert deliberation to the new topics of the Nairobi Mandate and applying the outcome tools of the previous multi-year expert meetings, namely the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, road map for reform of the international investment regime, Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and framework for science, technology and innovation policy, to these new topics.

Main issues for the session

22. Based on policy instruments previously developed by UNCTAD, in particular the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, road map for reform of the international investment regime and global action menu for investment facilitation, the meeting will share best practices and lessons learned, discuss initiatives and policy tools, and build a better understanding of issues surrounding the mobilization of investment for inclusive and sustainable development. Particular attention will be given to closing the systemic gap arising from the relative absence of facilitation and promotion measures in today's investment policy landscape and to issues related to international investment agreements and their sustainable development dimension. The legislative mandate is provided by subparagraphs 38 (l), 55 (q), 55 (r) and 55 (hh) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, as well as by paragraph 91 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

23. The outcome of the multi-year expert meeting, the Chair's summary, will serve as an input to the policy deliberations of the ninth session of the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development that will be held in the latter part of 2017.

E. Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation

Relevant mandates

24. Nairobi Maafikiano. Subparagraphs 38 (a), 55 (c) and (h), and 100 (l).

25. Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Paragraph 88.

Session for 2017: Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda

26. The topic of the multi-year expert meeting in 2017 will be "Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda". It will, therefore, directly address the issue underscored in subparagraph 38 (a) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which reads: "Continue to promote an enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development, including by promoting multilateral solutions to common economic problems".

Main issues for the session

27. The multi-year expert meeting will link the issues of globalization, inequality and growth with the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, Goals 1, 8 and 10 define the inclusive growth agenda in the 2030 framework.

28. The multi-year expert meeting will, inter alia, address the following issues: (a) how technological changes are affecting the possibilities to attain inclusive growth in developing countries; (b) how global ation impacts fiscal policies that developing countries require to advance a more inclusive and sustainable development agenda; and (c) how globalization impacts inequality and efforts to achieve inclusive growth.

29. At the end of the session, the multi-year expert meeting will suggest a global policy approach to address these issues.

Annex VI

Agenda for the thirty-first special session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
2. Agenda of the sixty-fifth executive session of the Trade and Development Board
3. Agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board
4. Substantive topics for the forthcoming sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission
5. Terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Finance for Development
6. Topics for the first sessions of multi-year expert meetings
7. Revised calendar of meetings
8. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

Annex VII

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa
3. Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board
4. Other business
5. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth executive session

Annex VIII

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:
   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board
2. High-level segment*
3. Interdependence: Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda
4. Development strategies in a globalized world
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries**
   - Building productive capacities in the least developed countries and graduated least developed countries – lessons learned
6. Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth
7. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
8. Investment for development: Investment and the digital economy
9. Establishing development linkages in the extractive sector: Lessons from the field
10. Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries
11. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
12. Technical cooperation activities:
    (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
    (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
13. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference
14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
15. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
    (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Fiftieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
    (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

* Title to be determined.

** In previous years, this has been the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

16. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

    (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2016–2017 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

    (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

    (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

    (d) Review of the calendar of meetings

    (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2018

    (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

    (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

17. Other business

18. Adoption of the report

Annex IX

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Barbados
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
Finland
Gabon
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lesotho
Madagascar
Mexico
Oman
Philippines
Poland
Serbia
Sudan
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Zambia

2. Representatives of the following non-member observer State attended the session:

State of Palestine

3. The following intergovernmental organization was represented at the session:

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XXXI)/INF.1.